

March 10, 2014

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Member, California State Assembly
80th District
State Capitol Room 5158
Sacramento, CA 95814



CALIFORNIA
FOOD POLICY
A D V O C A T E S

Los Angeles Office
205 S. Broadway
Suite 402
Los Angeles
CA 90012

RE: AB 2345 - SUPPORT

T: 213.482.8200
F: 213.482.8203
www.cfpa.net

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

California Food Policy Advocates is writing to communicate our support for AB 2345.

CFPA is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the health and well being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. CFPA pursues this mission by expanding the federal nutrition programs, including CalFresh, which provides over 4 million Californians with food purchasing support. Because post-welfare reform survey and research data indicated unacceptably high rates of food insecurity among households with immigrants, CFPA initially co-sponsored the creation of the California Food Assistance Program in 1997. We have steadily advocated to expand and protect it since. A poster in our office reads: "Hunger Costs More. Restore Food Stamps for Immigrants."

AB 2345 would expand access to the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) to all otherwise eligible, lawfully present immigrants. Under current law, several categories of lawfully present immigrants, who work and pay taxes, such as Deferred Action (including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), and longtime residents who are in the process of securing lawful permanent residence, do not qualify for these critical safety net services when they need them. Extending these services to all otherwise eligible, lawfully present immigrants is needed to ensure that families facing severe economic challenges can survive.

Enacting this legislation will make a significant dent in food insecurity and hunger among California families.

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at 213 482 8200x201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Sharp', written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Sharp
Senior Advocate